GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2765
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
ISI MARKING
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requirement of ISI mark is selective for consumer products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has adequate facilities to monitor the quality of such products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Product Certification Scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under which licences for use of ISI Mark is granted to manufacturers, is basically voluntary in nature. Any manufacturer who is capable of manufacturing product conforming to an established Indian Standard can apply to BIS for grant of licence to use ISI Mark. However, in the interest of public health and safety, Government can consider bringing any product under the Mandatory Certification of BIS. So far, 118 products e.g. Packaged Drinking Water, Packaged Natural Mineral Water, Cement, Food & Food Additives, LPG Cylinders etc. have been brought under the Mandatory Certification through various Quality Control Orders issued by different Ministries/Departments.

(c) to (e): BIS, through its scheme of Testing and Inspection and surveillance visits, ensures that all its licensees adhere to the various quality specifications prescribed in the relevant standards. BIS has a network of 8 laboratories in India which can test most of the products presently under certification. Besides, BIS has recognized more than 100 outside laboratories to supplement the requirement of testing of the samples. These laboratories are either accredited by National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) or assessed directly by BIS in accordance with ISO 17025.